

MINUTES
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20, 2012

Chair Abrams called the 242nd meeting of the City of San Diego Human Relations Commission (HRC) to order at 5:35 PM

- **WELCOME**

Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Bruce Abrams, Mary Alcock, Mark Dillon, Gagandeep Kaur, Joyce Singer Abrams, Lorena Slomanson, Joel Trambley, Patricia Washington

Excused: Monica Bauer Federman, Gracia Molina de Pick, Shonee Henry, Mitz Lee

Leave of Absence: Tiffany Harrison is on a two month leave of absence to complete an internship in Washington DC

Absent: George Mitrovich

Staff: Danell Scarborough, Executive Director; Karen Li, Deputy City Attorney; Pam Holmberg, Labor Relations

- **PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION**

Hunger Advocacy Network

Shana Hazan and Elyse Homel Vitale from Jewish Family Service of San Diego presented to the Commission. The Hunger Advocacy Network is a group of organizations that work to bring about change in anti-hunger policies at the State level. The four core beliefs are; 1) Increased access to advocacy resources will increase stakeholder advocacy; 2) Legislative advocacy by local organizations will influence change by legislators; 3) Legislators will support anti-hunger policies; and 4) Incremental State-level policy changes will reduce food insecurities in San Diego. CalFresh is a top priority to the Hunger Advocacy Network plus they advocate for both Assembly and Senate bills related to hunger issues.

Vice-Chair Dillon made a motion that the Human Relations Commission become a partner with the Hunger Advocacy Network and that a liaison be appointed. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Abrams and the motion passed unanimously.

Naming a Navy Ship for Harvey Milk

Nicole Murray Ramirez, Joseph Rocha and Allan Spyer approached the Commission requesting support in naming a Navy vessel for Harvey Milk. They provided information on Harvey Milk's life, his connection to the Navy and his importance as a GLBT hero. They noted Mr. Milk fit all of the military core values of honor, courage and commitment. The name given to Navy vessels is selected by Secretary of the Navy.

Commissioner Trambley made a motion that the Commission send a letter of support for naming a Navy vessel for Harvey Milk to the Secretary of the Navy, the Secretary of Defense and a letter to the City Council asking for their support. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kaur and passed unanimously

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Commissioner Alcock to approve the May 16, 2012 minutes. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chair Dillon. The motion passed unanimously.

- **ACTION AGENDA**

New Business

1. Review of Commission’s attendance guidelines

Executive Director Scarborough reviewed the attendance guidelines that are included in the Rules and Responsibilities and the Bylaws for the Human Relations Commission. A Commissioner can be removed if they miss, without excuse, three consecutive meetings or more than one-third of the year’s meetings (excused or unexcused). The year is based on the City’s fiscal year which is from July – June. Determination of an excused absence is by majority vote of the Executive Committee. There is no guideline as to how many excused absences are allowed. To comply with the Bylaws the Executive Committee will vote on each month’s excused absences at their meeting the following month. The Commission will work to develop criteria for excused absences so all will know what is expected and the votes can be consistent.

2. Update on amending Municipal Code to include Council District 9

Deputy City Attorney Karen Li provided the Commission with an overview of expected areas of change to the Municipal Code with the creation of Council District 9. The codes for Boards and Commissions will be affected. This is a good opportunity for the Commission to suggest any appropriate revisions. Executive Director Scarborough will email the Municipal Codes affecting the Commission to all members for review. The Special Projects Committee will propose revisions and with a draft by August 1.

Old Business

1. Update HRC 2012 Priority Committees and Work Plan

- a. Hate Motivated Behavior** – No report.
- b. Education-** The Committee is partnering with the Parent Empowerment Convention to be held in 2013. They will be meeting with the City Schools’ Superintendent and will ask for a youth representative for the HRC and support for the Parent Empowerment Convention.
- c. Immigration Rights-** The Commission continues to play an active role in the San Diego Immigrant Rights Consortium.

Chair Abrams made a motion that the Commission sends a letter of thanks to President Obama for his enlightenment on immigration. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Slomanson and passed unanimously.

- d. Access Issues-** Commissioner Slomanson is working with Dr. Bill Oswald on a CalFresh presentation. Chair Abrams said he felt the letters the Commission sent to the County are helping to gain traction for change.
- e. Special Projects** – Commissioner Alcock reported the committee will be working on revisions to the Municipal Code.

- f. **Outreach and Advocacy** - No report.
- g. **Media and Communications** – Commissioner Trambley is working to streamline the develop of press releases so information can come out in a timely manner.
- h. **Discrimination Complaints** - No report.

- **INFORMATION AGENDA**

Chair’s Report

1. Update on assistance to UMI Learning Center

Commissioner Abrams continues to work with UMI to support them as they seek out assistance.

The Soul Choir of Chicago will be coming to San Diego on Martin Luther King Jr. weekend, January, 2013 on the invitation of Congregation Beth Israel. He asked the Commission to share any ideas of additional places the Choir could perform.

Commissioners’ Report:

1. Report on Harvey Milk Diversity Breakfast

This year was a very successful event and Vice-Chair Dillon was an impressive presenter.

2. Report on Diversity Day at Children’s Museum

This event was well attended and very positive for all. Councilmember Alvarez attended at the Commission’s invitation.

Executive Director’s Report:

1. Update on successful Justice for Janitors campaign

Executive Director Scarborough reported that the Justice for Janitors campaign ended with victory. The Janitors received a favorable contract and made many strides towards their goals. The Human Relations Commission was thanked for their support.

2. Update on planning session with SD REPertory Theater

Executive Director Scarborough will discuss this event at a future meeting

3. Update to the Commission logo

Commissioner Trambley is working to develop new logo ideas for presentation to the Commission.

Upcoming Events:

Executive Director Scarborough reminded the Commission of upcoming events.

- 1. Panel discussion - Veils: Perceptions of the Veil from the 19th Century to the present worn by Christian, Muslim, Jewish, and Druze Women” – July 11th 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. in partnership with the San Diego Public Library
- 2. CAHRO Southern California Convening – July 17, 2012, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. hosted by Orange County Human Relations Commission
- 3. CAHRO State-wide Convening – November 16, 2012, 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. at the California Endowment building in Los Angeles

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.